

## CONDENSED CLASSICS

### THE SCARLET LETTER

By NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

Condensation by George S. Barton  
Winchester, Mass.



Nathaniel Hawthorne, an American writer, was born in Salem, Mass., July 4, 1804. His earliest boyhood days were spent in Salem, but when he was 14 years old, the family moved to Maine. Here the young lad continued the solitary walks of which he was so fond, but in the wilderness, instead of the narrow streets of Salem. Even at this early date he had acquired a taste for writing, and carried a little blank book in which he jotted down his notes. After a year in Maine, Hawthorne returned to Salem to prepare for college. He amused himself by publishing a manuscript periodical, and at times speculated upon the profession he would follow in the future. For some years Hawthorne lived in Concord, Mass., in the old Manse, and wrote "Mosses from an Old Manse," "Twice Told Tales" and "Grandfather's Chair." He joined the Brook Farm colony at West Roxbury, but found that the conditions there suited neither his taste nor his temperament, and he remained but one year. While serving as a surveyor of customs at Salem he found among some old papers a large letter "A" embroidered on red cloth, and speculating upon the origin and history of the letter, his imagination was so stirred, that upon his retirement from office he wrote "The Scarlet Letter."

Some other stories of Hawthorne are "The Blithedale Romance," "The Wonder Book," "The Snow Image," "Septimus Felton" and "The Dolliver Romance" were left unfinished at the author's death. He died at Plymouth, N. H., on the 19th of May, 1864, and five days later was buried at Sleepy Hollow, a beautiful cemetery at Concord where he used to walk under the pines when living at the old Manse. Over his grave is a simple stone, inscribed with the single word, "Hawthorne."

ONE summer morning over two centuries ago the grass plot before the jail in Prison Lane was occupied by many of the inhabitants of Boston. The door opened and the town beadle appeared followed by a young woman carrying a baby about three months old. On the breast of her gown, in red cloth, appeared the letter A, and it was that scarlet letter which drew all eyes toward her.

The place appointed for her punishment was not far from the prison door, and in spite of the agony of her heart, Hester Prynne passed with almost a serene deportment to the scaffold where the pillory was set up, and under the weight of a thousand unrelenting eyes the unhappy prisoner sustained herself as best a woman might.

A small, intelligent appearing man, on the outskirts of the crowd attracted Hester's attention, and he in his turn eyed her till, seeing that she seemed to recognize him, he laid his finger on his lips.

Then, speaking to a townsman he said, "I pray you, good sir, who is this woman, and wherefore is she set up to public shame?"

"You must needs be a stranger, friend," said the townsman, "else you would have heard of Mistress Hester Prynne. She hath raised a scandal in godly Master Dimmesdale's church. The penalty thereof is death, but the magistracy in their mercy, have doomed her to stand a space of three hours on the platform of the pillory, and for the remainder of her life to wear a mark of shame in her bosom."

"A wise sentence!" remarked the stranger. "It irks me, nevertheless, that the partner of her iniquity should not at least stand by her side. But he will be known—he will be known!"

Rev. Mr. Dimmesdale, a young minister of high native gifts, who had already wide eminence in his profession, was urged to exhort Hester to repentance and confession. Addressing her, he advised that she name her fellow sinner even if he had to step from a high position to stand beside her, for it was better so than to hide a guilty heart through life.

Hester shook her head, keeping her place upon the pedestal of shame with an air of weary indifference.

That night her child writhed in convulsions, and a physician, Mr. Roger Chillingworth, none other than the stranger Hester had noticed in the crowd, was called. Having eased the baby's pain he turned and said: "Hester, I ask not wherefore thou hast fallen into the pit. It was my folly and thy weakness. What had I—a man of thought—to do with youth and beauty like thine? I might have known that in my long absence this would happen."

"I have greatly wronged thee," murmured Hester.

"We have wronged each other," he answered. "But I shall seek this man whose name thou wilt not reveal, and sooner or later he must be mine. I shall contrive nothing against his life. Let him live. One thing, thou that wast my wife, I ask. Thou hast kept his name secret. Keep likewise, mine. Let thy husband be to the world as one already dead, and breathe not the secret, above all to the man thou wottest of."

"I will keep thy secret as I have his."

Freed from prison Hester did not flee, but established herself in a small cottage just outside the town, incurring no risk of want for she possessed the art of needlework which provided food for herself and child. She had named the little one "Pearl," as being of great price, and little Pearl grew up a lovely child. People wished to take her away and the matter was discussed in the mother's presence by Governor Bellingham and his guests—Rev. John Wilson, Rev. Mr. Dimmesdale, and Dr. Chillingworth.

"God gave me the child!" cried Hester, and turning to the young clergyman, Mr. Dimmesdale, she exclaimed, "Speak thou for me. Thou wast my pastor. Thou knowest what is in my heart and what are a mother's rights, and how much the stronger they are when that mother has but her child and the scarlet letter! I will not loose the child! Look to it!"

"There is truth in what she says," began the minister. "There is a quality of awful sacredness between this mother and this child. It is good for this poor sinful woman that she hath an infant confided to her care—to be trained by her to righteousness. Let us leave them as providence hath seen fit to place them!"

"You speak, my friend, with a strange earnestness," said Roger Chillingworth, smiling at him.

"He hath adduced such arguments that we will leave the matter as it stands," said the governor. The affair being so satisfactorily concluded, Hester and Pearl departed.

Rev. Mr. Dimmesdale's health failing he consulted Dr. Chillingworth. Taking him as a patient, the doctor decided to know the man's inmost nature before trying to heal him. Arrangements were made for the two men to lodge together so that he might be constantly under the doctor's observation.

As Doctor Chillingworth proceeded with his investigation, begun as he imagined with the integrity of a judge desirous only of truth, a terrible fascination seized him and insisted that he do his bidding. He now dug into the poor clergyman's heart, like a miner seeking gold; and Mr. Dimmesdale grew to look at him with an unaccountable horror.

Often Mr. Dimmesdale tried to speak the truth of his past from the pulpit but had cheated himself by confessing his sinfulness in general terms. Once, indulging in the mockery of repentance, he mounted the scaffold where Hester had stood. There was no danger of discovery for everyone was asleep. Even so he was surprised by Hester and Pearl, returning from a death bed in the town, and presently by Roger Chillingworth.

"Who is that man?" gasped Mr. Dimmesdale, in terror. "I shiver at him, Hester. Canst thou do nothing for me? I have a nameless horror of the man."

Remembering her promise, Hester was silent.

"Worthy sir," said the doctor, advancing to the platform, "pious Master Dimmesdale! Can this be you? Come, good sir, I pray you, let me lead you home! You should study less, or these night-whimsies will grow upon you."

Hester now resolved to do what she could for the victim whom she saw in her former husband's grip. One day she met the old doctor in the woods seeking herbs and implored him to be merciful, saying that she must now reveal the secret of their former relationship no matter what befall.

A week later Hester awaited the clergyman in the forest and told him about Roger Chillingworth and their relationship, bidding him hope for a new life beyond the sea in some rural village.

"Thou shalt not go alone," she whispered.

Arthur Dimmesdale attained the proudest eminence a New England clergyman could reach. He had preached the election sermon on the holiday celebrating the election of a new governor.

Hester had taken berths to England, and on the holiday the shipmaster informed her that Roger Chillingworth had booked passage on the same vessel; saying nothing, she turned and stood by the pillory with Pearl.

The minister, surrounded by leading townspeople, halted at the scaffold and calling Hester and Pearl to him mounted the scaffold steps. Telling Hester he was a dying man and must hasten to assume his shame, he turned to the marketplace and spoke with a voice that all could hear.

"People of New England! At last, at last I stand where seven years since I should have stood. Lo, the scarlet letter which Hester wears! Ye have all shuddered at it! But there stood one in the midst of you, at whose brand of sin ye have not shuddered."

With a convulsive motion he tore away the ministerial gown from his breast. It was revealed! Then sinking down on the scaffold he died, his head resting on Hester's bosom.

Afterwards, conflicting accounts arose about the scene on the scaffold. Many testified to seeing a scarlet letter on the minister's bosom, while others denied it, saying that Dimmesdale's confession implied no part of Hester's guilt.

Roger Chillingworth died, bequeathing his property to Pearl.

Hester and Pearl lived in England for years, then Pearl marrying. Hester returned alone to the little dwelling by the forest.

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## CARRANZA REFUSES TO GIVE UP OFFICE

SAYS HE WILL FIGHT TO PUT DOWN REBELLION IN MEXICO

### SUCCESSOR MUST BE ELECTED

President Scheduled to Leave Capital for Vera Cruz—Says Presidency Must Not Be a Prize of Military Leaders.

Mexico City.—Refusal to abandon the presidency in face of the menace of rebellion featured a manifesto issued on the occasion of the national holiday by President Carranza.

The President announced that he would fight to a finish to put down the rebellion, and that he would not turn over the presidency to anyone except a legally elected successor.

He enunciated the principle of the elimination of the coup d'etat from Mexican politics, asserting that the presidency must not be a prize for military leaders.

El Paso, Tex.—President Carranza was scheduled to leave Mexico City for Vera Cruz, according to a telegram received from Nogales, Ariz., by La Patria, a Spanish language newspaper published here.

The message was signed by A. Almada, head of the revolutionists' department of information and propaganda at Nogales.

In view of the reports received earlier in the day that railroad service from Mexico City to Vera Cruz had been suspended, some doubts were expressed here as to the probability that the Mexican chief executive had been able to depart. It was pointed out, however, that as a result of the critical situation of the federal government, a special effort might have been made to run a special train for President Carranza.

The text of the message relating to Carranza received by La Patria follows:

"Carranza, accompanied by ministers, leaves for Vera Cruz. Some days ago he sent his son-in-law, Candido Aguilar, ahead to Vera Cruz with an advance guard."

Washington.—Unconfirmed advices received by agents of the Mexican revolutionary movement said the Carranza garrison at Torreon had revolted.

Other advices to the agents said no trains were permitted to leave Mexico City and that the Carranza minister of railways had ordered all available rolling stock concentrated in the capital.

## RAILROADS SEEK BIG LOAN

ASK UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOR \$500,000,000.

Money Needed to Purchase New Equipment—Banks Refuse Them More Than \$150,000,000

Washington.—An additional \$500,000,000 during this year to finance the construction of freight cars was asked of Congress by the railroad executives.

E. N. Brown, chairman of the board of the St. Louis and San Francisco road, speaking for the executives, said this sum was necessary to build 100,000 cars and 2,000 locomotives immediately needed by the roads.

The companies themselves, he testified, could not borrow this amount on their own credit even should the Interstate Commerce Commission allow a general freight rate increase.

Brown said the roads were short 225,000 freight cars, 9,540 passenger cars and 3,150 locomotives. They have ordered on their own account, he said, 27,778 cars and 518 locomotives, paying an average of 7 1/2 per cent on equipment trust certificates.

"Banks have told us that it will be impossible to obtain on the investment markets more than \$100,000,000 or \$150,000,000," he said, "and that this amount will be at a rapidly advancing rate of interest. The present orders represent about \$144,000,000 in costs."

If Congress would authorize the immediate use of \$125,000,000 from the \$300,000,000 revolving fund provided by the transportation act, he said, the loan of another \$500,000,000 later would fulfill the requirements.

The railroad executives were called before the committee as the result of requests from Western grain men that Congress appropriate \$300,000,000 for vast quantities of foodstuffs were being held in storage in the West because of a lack of cars and that this was a contributing factor to the high cost of living.

England Criticizes Frank Moran. London.—"An unlovely fight" was the verdict of the Daily Mail on Frank Moran's appearance recently against Tom Cowley. The writer concluded that they were equally bad, but says "Moran failed to reveal a punch of any note and his swings were woefully wild."

Jazz Concert Given by Wireless. Champaign, Ill.—Paul G. Bussey surprised Twin City people by sending a "jazz" band concert by wireless from Champaign to Urbana.

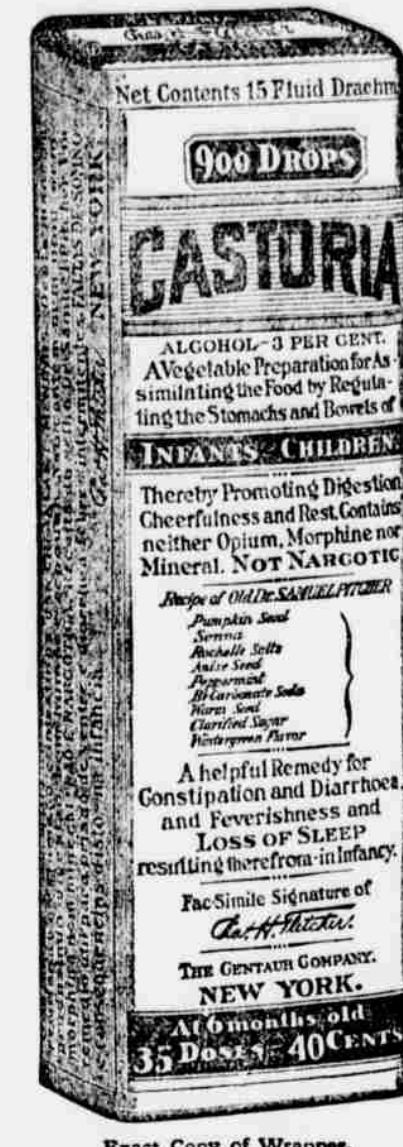
## Baby Specialists.

THAT there are Physicians who specialize on Infant ailments you know. All Physicians understand Infant troubles: all Physicians treat them. It is his profession, his duty, to know human ills from the Stork to the Great Beyond.

But in serious cases he calls in the Specialist. Why? He knows as every Mother knows, or ought to know, that Baby is just a baby, needing special treatment, special remedies.

Can a Mother be less thoughtful? Can a Mother try to relieve Baby with a remedy that she would use for herself? Ask yourself; and answer honestly!

Always remember that Baby is just a baby. And remembering this you will remember that Fletcher's Castoria is made especially for Infants and Children.



## Children Cry For Fletcher's CASTORIA

The False and the True.

Advertising by the use of large space, the expenditure of huge sums of money have placed on the market, have put in your home, perhaps, many articles that today have been discarded, as you will readily admit. Do you recall anything that has more modestly appealed to the public than has Fletcher's Castoria: modest in all its claims, pleading at all times—and truthfully—for our babies?

The big splurge, the misleading claims may win for a time, but the honest truth-telling advertiser is like the old story of the tortoise that beat the hare.

Mothers everywhere, and their daughters, now mothers, speak frankly, glowingly, enthusiastically in praise of Fletcher's Castoria. Speak of it lovingly as a friend that has brought comfort, cheer and smiles to their little one.

There are substitutes and imitations as there are for the diamond, for anything of value. One might almost say that that which is not copied has no value. So you have had the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher and a copy of the genuine wrapper kept constantly before you that you may guard against the false and the untrue.

MOTHERS SHOULD READ THE BOOKLET THAT IS AROUND EVERY BOTTLE OF FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Bears the Signature of

Chas. H. Fletcher

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Time may be money in some cases, but many a man with nothing but time has managed to starve to death.

## WHY DRUGGISTS RECOMMEND SWAMP-ROOT

For many years druggists have watched with much interest the remarkable record maintained by Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder medicine.

It is a physician's prescription. Swamp-Root is a strengthening medicine. It helps the kidneys, liver and bladder do the work nature intended they should do.

Swamp-Root has stood the test of years. It is sold by all druggists on its merit and it should help you. No other kidney medicine has so many friends.

Be sure to get Swamp-Root and start treatment at once. However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Adv.

### Taking Joy Out of Life.

"The meekest man I know is a young fellow who bores with us."

"What is the matter with him?"

"He is trying out an invention to keep subscribers from listening when a party line is being used."

Catarrrh Deafness Cannot Be Cured by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure Catarrrh Deafness, and that is by a constitutional remedy. HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. Catarrrh Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result. Unless the inflammation can be reduced and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing may be destroyed forever. Many cases of Deafness are caused by Catarrh, which is an inflamed condition of the Mucous Surfaces. ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for any case of Catarrh Deafness that cannot be cured by HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE.

All Druggists Tel. Circulars free. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

That Depends. "How I would like to taste her cherry lips!" "Why, do you fancy the lipstick flavor?"

A Lady of Distinction. Is recognized by the delicate fascinating influence of the perfume she uses. A bath with Cuticura Soap and hot water to thoroughly cleanse the pores, followed by a dusting with Cuticura Talcum Powder usually means a clear, sweet, healthy skin.—Adv.

Depends on How You Look at It. Weary William—Gee whizz! Dia would must be going crazy. Here's an article in his paper what says a man traveled 4,000 miles to take baths.

More man would marry only for love if they could afford it.

Money of the World. From official data supplied by the director of the mint the monetary stocks of fifty-six of the principal countries of the world have been estimated in terms of American dollars. The computation shows the money of the world was approximately \$50,636,558,000.

### Hirsute Courage.

"The Arabs follow the custom of their prophet Mohammed, who never shaved."

"I suppose that is one reason why they are always so ready to beard their enemies."

Some women are as set in their ways as an old hen.

Many a man has been turned down while waiting for something to turn up.

## Sure Relief



6 BELL'S Hot water Sure Relief

BELL'S FOR INDIGESTION

Always Good!

Wm. Schotten Coffee Co.  
St. Louis, U.S.A.  
Importers of Coffee, Tea and Spices

Every Cup—  
of Sinbad, Golden Days, or Queen's Taste Coffee—always tastes the same. The original plantation quality is in every package. Ask your grocer. His store is our direct branch in your town.

## Don't Let Catarrh Drag You into Consumption

Avoid Its Dangerous Stage. There is a more serious stage of Catarrh than the annoyance caused by the stopped-up air passages, and the hawking and spitting and other distasteful features.

The real danger comes from the tendency of the disease to continue its course downward until the lungs become affected, and then dreaded consumption is on your path. Your own experience has taught you that the disease cannot

be cured by sprays, inhalers, jellies and other local applications. S. S. S. has proven a most satisfactory remedy for Catarrh because it goes direct to its source, and tends to remove the germs of the disease from the blood. Get a bottle from your druggist today, and begin the only logical treatment that gives real results. For free medical advice write to Medical Director, 104 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga.